

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 SCCT-01 /091 W
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O P 121352Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1493

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 57

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG.12: TELL ZAATAR FINAL
EVACUATION POSSIBLE AS CHRISTIANS KEEP UP ASSAULT

REF: BEIRUT 6891

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1. SUMMARY: TELL ZAATAR BATTLE RAGES ON WITH INTENSE PRESSURE. AUGUST 11 PLO INDICATED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE EVACUATION, WHICH ICRC AND ARAB LEAGUE SEEKING TO ARRANGE FOR AUG 13. HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE ELSEWHERE IN BEIRUT AREA IN PART IN SUPPORT OF TELL ZAATAR. METN ACTIVE BUT NO CHANGES IN POSITIONS. NORTH QUIET. INDICATIONS OF SYRIAN AND CHRISTIAN REINFORCEMENTS IN JEZZINE AREA. ARAB LEAGUE DEPUTY KHOLI EXPECTED VISIT DAMASCUS. HE REPORTEDLY GROWING PESSIMISTIC AND IS CRITICAL OF FRANGIE. PALESTINIAN GROUP ALSO TO VISIT DAMASCUS. SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN BEIRUT KEEPING UP PRESSURE ON CHRISTIANS TO PERMIT RETURN OF NABAA INHABITANTS. KARAME CONTINUES EFFORTS REVIVE LEBANESE ADMINISTRATION IN WEST BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. TELL ZAATAR. INTENSE CHRISTIAN ASSAULT ON TELL ZAATAR CONTINUES, WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY AND ARMORED SUPPORT. L'ORIENT ESTIMATES SOME 65 KILLED IN FIGHTING AUG. 11 BEFORE NOON. LOCAL CHRISTIAN COMMANDERN GROUND ESTIMATES SOME 300 FIGHTERS LEFT IN CAMP, CONFINED TO AREA ABOUT 300 METERS SQUARE. CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE TAKEN LAST SOURCE OF WATER IN CAMP. BECHIR GEMAYEL SAYS SOME 1500 CIVILIANS STILL IN CAMP. SMALL GROUPS CONTINUE TO SURRENDER (RIGHTISTS CLAIM SOME 400 ON AUG.11), AND ONE GROUP MADE SEVERAL UNSECCESFUL ATTEMPTS NIGHT OF AUG. 11-12 TO EXFILTRATE TOWARDS NORTHWEST. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY CONTACTED PIERRE GEMAYEL LATE AUG 11 TO ARRANGE PEACEFUL EVACUATION. ICRC AND ARAB LEAGUE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED, AND POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SUCO AN EVACUATION WOULD TAKE PLACE AUG.13. ONE REPORT INDICATES ICRC WILL TAKE OUT WOUNDED, AND OTHER VEHICLES WOULD TAKE OUT OTHERS. REPORTEDLY, DELEGATION FROM CAMP ITSELF IS DISCUSSING EVACUATION WITH AMIN AND BESHIR GEMAYEL AS WELL. MEETINGS OF PALESTIANAINS, CHRISTIANS, ARAB LEAGUE AND RED CROSS EXPECTED TAKE PLACE AUG 12. NIGHT OF AUG 11-12 SAW MORE FIGHTING, CHRISTIAN GAINS, AND MORE PRISONERS. CHRISTIANS AGAIN ATTACKED CAMP AT DAWN AUG 12. WESTERN JOURNALIST CLAIMS (NOON, CONFIDENTIAL

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AUG 12) SAW CHRISTIANS CARRYING OUT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF PALESTINIANS, AND PLO RADIO MAKING CLAIM RIGHTISTS NOW CONDUCTING MASSACRE IN CAMP AFTER HAVING ENTERED IT UNDER GUISE OF EVACUATION EFFORT. TENSION IS HIGH IN WEST BEIRUT, AS TALK OF PALESTINIAN REPRISALS REVIVES. ONE FATAH SOURCE SAYS PALESTINIANS MAY ATTACK ISOLATED CHRISTIAN POSITION SOMEWHERE IN LOWER CHOUF.

3. MILITARY SITUATION ELSEWHERE. HEAVY ARTILLERYH FIRING IN BEIRUT AND ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE, IN PART PALESTINIAN ATTEMPT RELIEVE PRESSURE ON TELL ZAATAR BY SHELLING CHRISTIAN POSITIONS SURROUNDING IT AT JISR EL BACHA, MKALLES, DEKOUANE, HORCH TABET, ETC. SHIP WITH GASOLINE IN JOUNIEH REPORTEDLY HIT. GROUND FIGHTING STILL CONCENTRATED IN GALERIE SEMAAN AREA. "SUICICE COMMANDO" RAIDS BY BOTH SIDES REPORTED IN AREA OF CHYAH AND AIN EL-RUMANNEH. TWO HAWKER HUNTER AIRCRAFT OF LEBANESE AIR FORCE (PROBABLY FROM AIR BASE AT RAYAK, ALLIED WITH SYRIANS) OVERFLEW BEIRUT AFTERNOON OF AUG 11. METN AREA STILL ACTIVE, WITH SOME GROUND ACTION, BUT NO REPORTS OF GROUND ADVANCES. IN NORTH, ONLY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES REPORTED. IN SOUTH, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF REINFORCEMENTS BY BOTH SYRIANS AND CHRISTIANS IN JEZZINE AREA. IN BEKAA, SYRIAN FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED CHRISTIAN VILLAGE OF DAYR AL-AHMAR, IN WAKE OF MOSLEM COMPLAINTS THAT SYRIANS WERE OCCUPYING ONLY MOSLEM VILLAGES IN AREA.

4. ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS. AL DEPUTY KHOLI ACTIVELY IPVLOVED IN EFFORT ARRANGE TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION, BUT HE REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO VISIT DAMASCUS BEGINNING AUG 12 OR 13. L'ORIENT SAYS HE WILL RAISE THREE ISSUES WITH SYRIANS: ACTIVATION OF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR UNDER SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD; RETURN OF INHABITANTS TO NABAA; AND SYRIAN WITHDRAWALS FROM JEZZINE AREA AND ZAHLE AREA, TO BE REPLACED BY AL FORCES. IN BEIRUT AUG. 11, HE MET PIERRE GEMAYEL, CHARLES HELOU, KAMEL AL ASSAD, JUNBLATT, ICRC DIRECTOR HOEFLIGER, AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY

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OSSEIRAN. OSSEIRAN SAYS PRIVATELY KHOLI IS DISGUSTED WITH OBSTINACY OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND HIS CONTINUOUS CRITICISM OF AL FORCE. VARIOUS SOURCES SUGGEST THAT KHOLI IS BECOMING PESSIMISTIC ON CHANCES HE CAN HAVE ANY IMPACT ON LEBANESE SITUATION AND MAY RETURN TO CAIRO.

5. SYRIAN CONTACTS. YASSIR ABID RABUH, ABU MAHIR AND ABU MAZIN OF PLO DEPARTED BEIRUT AUG 12 FOR DAMASCUS, TO DISCUSS QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION WITH SYRIANS,)ACCORDING TO SYRIAN COLONEL MADANI, AND PERHAPS ALSO TO DISCUSS TELL ZAATAR. MADANI, FOR HIS PART, IS KEEPING UP PRESSURE ON CHRISTIANS TO BE DECENT ABOUT NABAA REFUGEES. HE TALKED TO FRANGIE, WHO CALLED A KFOUR FRONT

MEETING, AFTER WHICH MADANI WAS TOLD THAT KFOUR PROPOSES APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO SURVEY SITUATION IN NABAA. COMMITTEE WOULD INCLUDE KEMAL AS ASSAD, IMAM MUSA SADR, AND KFOUR REPRESENTATIVE. IN FACT, DOUBTFUL IF EVACUEES WOULD HAVE INTEREST IN RETURNING ON SHORT TERM AS HOMES HAVE, FOR MOST PART, BEEN GUTTED.

6. LEBANESE POLITICAL MOVES. PRIMIN KARAME IS NOW HAVING DAILY MEETINGS IN EFFORT REACTIVATE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN WEST BEIRUT. AUG 11 HE MET WITH SEVERAL OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. AUG. 12 HE IS EXPECTED TO MEET OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND OF PTT. RAS BEIRUT "CIVIL COMMITTEE" REPORTEDLY HOPES TO HAVE 1000 LEBANESE GENDARMES ON STREETS OF RAS BEIRUT SOON. RAYMOND EDDE'S NATIONAL UNITY FRONT APPLAUDS EFFORTS OF AL DEPUTY KHOLI, AND EXPRESSED APPROVAL AS WELL OF RECENT SALAM-GEMAYEL MEETING.

7. ADDENDUM: RADIO AMCHITE ANNOUNCED AT 1400 LOCAL THAT TELL ZAATAR HAS FALLEN.
HUNT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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